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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBIS

DATE: 6 January 1965

FROM : Chief, Saigon Bureau

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - December 1964

## I. GENERAL

With South Vietnam's civilian government under serious attack from both Buddhists and "Young Turk" generals, and General Khanh publicly criticizing the United States, the Viet Cong stepped up the scale of military activity and terrorism. Communist forces were apparently willing to risk high casualties with mass attacks up to regimental size, while South Vietnam forces had mixed success in taking advantage of the new V.C. aggressiveness. Terrorism, primarily directed at U.S. military personnel but not excluding civilians, continued to increase, climaxed by the audacious Christmas Eve bombing of the Brink BOQ in which two Americans were killed and 63 U.S. personnel injured. Liberation Radio promised that "bombs to kill Americans" will "continue to explode." In addition to bombings of bars and restaurants in Saigon and district towns which resulted in injury to both Americans and Vietnamese, snipers fired on an American group on the Saigon River near the city. A grenade also exploded in front of the gate of a U.S. Embassy employee's residence but no one was injured.

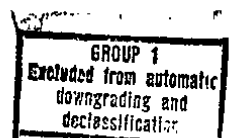
## II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial. Productive wordage for December totaled 241,000, a slight decline from November. Wordage from voice casts was 188,000. Weekly voice coverage continued at 181 hours, not including lengthy watches on Phnom Penh radio. Due to widespread interest a special effort was made to obtain material from the Khmer Serei clandestine radio, with limited success.

Communications. Preemption of the Bureau's circuit to Okinawa was less severe on the send side, but several long outages on the receive side resulted in considerable disruption of incoming traffic and lack of the tapes necessary to produce the Bureau's press and radio highlights. When tapes were not available, arrangements were made to pass the single copy received to the Embassy political section.

Lateral Services. Special arrangements were made for immediate distribution to interested U.S. offices of General Khanh's Order of the Day criticizing the United States, which was

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broadcast by Radio Saigon, at request of MACV and the Embassy political section. Other ad hoc services: provided the COS office with materials for use in a crash language training program; assisted USIS in preparing a report on incitement propaganda by the Liberation Radio; filed 8,000 words to New Delhi in support of Ambassador Bonsal in the talks with Cambodia, in accordance with a headquarters request; provided the COS with a Vietnamese-language text of a Liberation Radio commentary calling for stepped up "struggle" in Saigon; provided special distribution of communist reaction to the Brink bombing for Ambassador Taylor, USIS, and J-2; sent to headquarters additional tape recordings of "Hanoi Harnah" broadcasts.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

*Like in 1960.* Severance Pay Plan. The Embassy announced a severance pay plan for local employees to be effective 1 January 1965. Implementation of the plan was later delayed, however, pending completion of a local wage survey.

Change in per diem. The Embassy announced that per diem rates for personnel occupying government quarters will henceforth be \$8.00 per day in Saigon. Personnel in nongovernment quarters will continue to receive maximum per diem of \$16.00.

Christmas Party. The bureau chief's traditional party for Bureau employees and their families on the occasion of Christmas was held at the chief's residence on 20 December with a large attendance. [redacted] arranged the affair, which included gifts for the children and a performance by a Vietnamese magician.

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#### Attachments

1. Classified Personnel Report
2. Foreign Personnel Report
3. Broadcast Coverage Report  
(Communications Outage Report  
to be sent separately)

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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